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To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: MLPA Cental Coast monitoring

In order for a truly scientific credible monitoring program to be implemented a starting point to determine whether or not the goals of the MLPA are being met must be established. That starting point for species abundances distribution etc. must be accomplished prior to implementaion both outside (control site) and inside proposed MPA's. By not having these surveys complete prior to implementation of MPA's the determination of whether the MLPA's goals are being met cannot be made.

Without first determining a starting point for both species size and abundances both inside and outside proposed MPA's two serious problems will occur. First it must be established that species size and abundances at the sites both inside outside the proposed closures are the same otherwise you may be comparing two sites that are incomparable in their ability to support marine life which is not science. Secondly, assessments of size and density must be made prior to implementation to determine whether or not increases within the MPA sites are not at the expense of areas outside the MPA's. Terminating or limiting fishing effort within the proposed sites may increase size and abundance within the reserve but will likely lead to depletions or local extinctions outside the reserve due to a shift in effort.

If this occurs it must be documented and remedied by abolishing reserves in areas that were historically fished to spread effort evenly throughout state waters. No benefit to the marine ecosystem can possibly be achieved by having large areas of high fish concentrations in one area surrounded by large areas of highly depleted waters. These potential problems must be addressed and documented in the monitoring prior to the implementation of any proposed MPA's.

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